



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

October 2013

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



Sometimes we take for granted that we live in a city that is exceptionally blessed with many historic landmarks, natural wonders, artistic treasures and points of interest. Strolling along the Riverwalk is not only an excellent way to stay in shape and enjoy time with family and friends but also a great way to explore your City. Just a few steps off the walk, you can see many natural and man-made treasures. Here are a couple of new attractions you may want to check out:

Ancient Visitor

This past Spring, construction crews installing new sewer lines along River Ave. made a simple, yet extraordinary discovery. About six feet below grade, they struck the biggest boulder that the crew had ever recalled encountering. After digging around it, they called in a crane and semi-truck to remove it. The crew then asked us where to deliver the City's new 31,000 lb. asset. We decided to place the boulder along the drive to Lincoln Park next to the Wastewater Treatment facility.



We thought it would be interesting to learn about the history of the boulder and how it got here. Our Wastewater Department called Peter Burns, a Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame, and asked him to take a closer look at the rock. His assessment was that the rock is at least several hundred million years old and its composition is typical of stone commonly found in Southern Canada and extreme Northern Michigan. It is believed that the stone was transported here during the last Ice Age by the advance of a glacier through northern Indiana roughly

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Health Insurance Services - Affordable Care Act

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJPMC) Health Insurance Services is now open at the hospital campus in Mishawaka to help members of our community prepare for the changes of healthcare reform and the Affordable Care Act.

The location offers a place where individuals and families can learn more about their health insurance options from licensed health insurance agents, as well as enroll for coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace. Enrollment starts on October 1, 2013.

The Health Insurance Services office is located in the main lobby of the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center at 5215 Holy Cross Parkway in Mishawaka.

About the Health Insurance Marketplace

The Health Insurance Marketplace, a key component of the Affordable Care Act, is designed to make buying health coverage easier and more affordable. Come October 1, 2013, individuals and families who are not covered under a health insurance plan will have the opportunity to enroll in coverage and avoid federal penalties that go into effect in 2014.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Oct 12	"Oktoberfest" (Beutter Park/Kamm Island)
Oct 29	"Ghouls and Goodies" (Battell Center)
Oct 31	City of Mishawaka Trick or Treat 5pm-7pm
Dec 6	Santa's Arrival and Tree Lighting (Downtown)
Dec 7	"Winterfest" (Merrifield Park)

Eberhart Golf Course Fall Rates

(beginning Oct. 1)

\$14.00	18-holes (walk)
\$25.00	18-holes (ride)

Call (574) 255-5508 to
schedule your tee time!

City Offices Closed

Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Nov 28-29	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 24-25	Christmas Holiday

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

20,000 years ago. We thought that there was an educational opportunity in what seemed to be an ordinary rock so we decided to make an exhibit of it just steps away from the Riverwalk. There is now a marker that explains this history of the rock and how it got here for all the public to see.

I find it fascinating to think about the time that the boulder was deposited here. There might have been ice for as far as you could see in any direction. As the earth's climate changed and the ice melted, we were left with many of the natural features we see today including the Great Lakes and the remnants of the Great Kankakee Marsh, also known as the Everglades of the North. Indeed, the Ice Age is an integral part of our history, playing a role in many of our natural features including the Mishawaka Hills on the City's south side and the "muck" of the West End. The St. Joseph River got its start as a direct result of the Ice Age and was one of the largest and mightiest rivers that the world had known at the time. Even the City's name, Mishawaka (translated from Potawatomi meaning "*swift flowing water*"), is indirectly a result of that great period.

Circle of Life

In 2012, The City commissioned a new sculpture that was recently installed atop the fish ladder at the Central Park Dam along the St. Joseph River. The magnificent sculpture entitled "Circle of Life" was created by local artist Robert Kuntz, and fabricated by Mishawaka steelworker Rick Dombrowski of Deluxe Sheet Metal of South Bend.

The stylized birds were intended by the artist to be symbolic of migrating Sandhill Cranes or Great Blue Herons. These majestic birds inspire us with their beauty and grace in flight, their patience in fishing, and their perseverance for long migrations. The sculpture captures this inspirational quality from nature and will be a landmark of the City for generations to come.



The sculpture is part of the Riverwalk extension project that is currently under construction between Central Park and Cedar St. on the North Bank of the river, and compliments the artist's other piece "Flight of the Eagle" that sits just across the river at the point where the race splits from the river above the dam.

Take a few steps off of the beaten path and you may be surprised and amazed at what you can find right here in the Princess City!

Mayor Dave Wood



Health Insurance Services - Affordable Care Act (continued)

Frequently Asked Questions

- ♦ When will individuals and families be required to carry health insurance? **January 1, 2014.**
- ♦ When can individuals and families begin enrolling in the Marketplace? **October 1, 2013. Enrollment will end March 31, 2014.**
- ♦ Do I have to enroll for coverage if I already have health insurance through my employer, Medicare or other program? **No.**
- ♦ Will I be able to select my doctor under the new law? **Yes.**
- ♦ Will the government provide assistance if I cannot afford any of the insurance plans? **Yes.**
- ♦ What will the health insurance plans cover? **All insurance plans will have to cover doctor visits, hospitalizations, maternity care, emergency room care and prescriptions.**
- ♦ Is there a charge to use the Health Insurance Services? **There is no charge for the staff to assist you. This is a service for our community.**
- ♦ If I have a pre-existing condition, will I be denied coverage? **Insurance plans cannot deny you coverage for a pre-existing condition.**

You can learn more about the new health care law and find additional resources, including information in Spanish, by visiting <http://www.healthcare.gov>.